

# Appendix 6D

## LANDMAP Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects

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# 1. Introduction

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- 1.1.1 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B** identified two Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAA) that should be carried through to the assessment of effects as follows:
- CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley; and
  - CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon.
- 1.1.2 The landscape sensitivity of the GLAAs to the Proposed Development is presented in **Appendix 6C** and has been derived in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A**.
- 1.1.3 The assessment of direct landscape effects on these GLAAs is set out in **Table 6D.1** in **Section 2** of this Appendix. GLAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6-9a**.

## 2. Assessment of effects

Table 6D. 1 Assessment of effects: GLAAs

GLAA	Assessment
<b>CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley</b>	<p>As set out in <b>Table 6C.6</b> of <b>Appendix 6C</b>, this GLAA is assessed as being of High value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>Medium</i>.</p> <p><u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> The majority of the GLAA is located to the northwest, west and south of the Proposed Development, with T2 and T3 and a short extent at the eastern end of the access track associated with the Proposed Development located in the southeastern part close to the boundary with CYNONGL002. The blade tip ZTV in <b>Figure 6-9a</b> demonstrates that the Proposed Development would be visible across a large part of the southern and western GLAA, with theoretical visibility becoming more fragmented and intermittent within more enclosed parts of the GLAA to the north and far south.</p> <p>With reference to <b>Figure 6-6</b>, there are no operational wind turbines within this GLAA, however, a large-scale overhead electricity transmission line is an existing feature of the GLAA as it crosses Mynydd Llwyd, with mineral extraction also a prominent historic land use including quarries, a mine shaft and a waste tip. The Proposed Development would result in new direct effects within the southeastern part of the GLAA and indirect effects across the remainder of the GLAA, most notably in the centre and to the west. The direct effects resulting from the Proposed Development would be associated with localised excavations (for turbine foundations or construction of the access track) with limited scope to impact upon the main geological features of this aspect area which relate to the steep-sided U shaped valley. There would be no direct effect or disturbance to the three Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) within the GLAA.</p> <p>Based on these considerations, the magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. Landscape effects would therefore be Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> No operational or consented schemes are sited within this GLAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be Zero and there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u> The four turbines at Trecelyn and four turbines within the Mynydd Maen planning application schemes would also be sited within this GLAA but would have limited influence on the main geological features of the aspect area and would result in no disturbance to the RIGS (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Moderate/Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.</p>
<b>CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon</b>	<p>As set out in <b>Table 6C.6</b> of <b>Appendix 6C</b>, this GLAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>Medium-Low</i>.</p> <p><u>Assessment: Proposed Development</u> This majority of this GLAA is located to the north and northeast of the Proposed Development with the majority of the access track and T2 being located within the</p>

GLAA	Assessment
	<p>GLAA. The blade tip ZTV <b>Figure 6-9a</b> demonstrates that the Proposed Development would theoretically be visible across most of the GLAA although in reality, the forestry would play a role in restricting views.</p> <p>With reference to <b>Figure 6-6</b>, there are no operational wind turbines within this GLAA. However, a large-scale overhead electricity transmission line and transmitter masts are existing vertical features within the GLAA which is described in the LANDMAP Survey as an “<i>Upland area with no significant development</i>”. The Proposed Development would result in localised new direct effects within a small part of the southern GLAA and indirect effects across the remainder of the GLAA. The direct effects resulting from the Proposed Development would be associated with localised excavations (for the T2 turbine foundations or construction of the access track) with limited scope to impact upon the main geological features of this aspect area which relate to the steep-sided symmetrical V-shaped valley which dissects the upland plateau. The access track would be comparable to the existing forestry tracks which extensively cross this GLAA and which have not altered the integrity of this landform.</p> <p>Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would range from Low to Zero. Landscape effects would therefore be Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u></p> <p>No operational or consented schemes are sited within this GLAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be Zero and there would be no cumulative effects.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Scoping + Proposed Development</u></p> <p>Three of the turbines within the Mynydd Maen planning application scheme would be sited within this GLAA but would have limited influence on the main geological features of the aspect area (Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Moderate/Minor to Minor and Not Significant. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and adverse.</p>